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CHARLES ANTHONY DOWNS,

of lawful age, a witness herein, being first duly sworn as hereinafter certified, testified as follows:

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MANSELL:

- Q. All right. Mr. Downs, will you please state your name for the record?
 - A. Charles Anthony Downs.
 - Q. And do you go by Tony?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And, Mr. Downs, I'm an attorney that represents Paul Lankford in this matter, and you've already been deposed one time, but just as a reminder, she's taking everything down and we need to help her out by not talking over each other and giving verbal answers. Is that fair?
 - A. That's fair.
- Q. The same rule applies that if you need a break, let me know and we'll be happy to get you one as long as you answer any question that is pending. Is that fair?
 - A. That's fair.
 - Q. Any reason that you would not be able

1 to recall facts truthfully or accurately today? 2 Α. No. All right. Mr. Downs, tell me when you 3 Q. first became aware of, how you first became aware 4 that Mr. Lankford was going to be taking a leave of 5 6 absence? 7 He called me one afternoon and said he Α. had to check himself into rehab in Florida and he 8 would be gone, approximately, 35 days, and I told 9 him to take all the time he needed. We were here 10 11 to support him, and it was a short conversation. 12 Q. Did you talk about paperwork or 13 anything of that nature? I did not. 14 Α. 15 Did you inform anybody in human resources about Mr. Lankford's need to take a leave 16 of absence for rehab? 17 The best I can recall was we have two 18 19 people in my office who handled HR at that time and I informed them. 20 21 And who was that? 0. 22 Chris Chaille and Ann Boeckermann. 23 And you informed both of them? Q. 24 Α. Correct. 25 And did they tell you to do anything Q.

Every

1 else at that point? 2 Α. No. Were you, did you play any part in the 3 Q. paperwork that Mr. Lankford was to fill out or --4 5 Α. No. 6 And did you have any more conversations 7 with Mr. Lankford prior to him going to inpatient care? 8 9 What do you mean prior conversation? Α. 10 About him going into rehab? 11 Yes. Before he actually went into Q. 12 rehab. 13 Α. No, that was the first. You just had that one conversation and 14 Q. 15 then he went, as far as you know, he went off to rehab? 16 17 Α. Correct. 18 All right. Did you have any role or 19 responsibility informing his customers that he was 20 going to be taking a leave of absence? 21 Α. No. We did not inform any customers, 22 to the best of my knowledge. 23 Was anybody going to be covering his Q.

We had some inside salespeople.

24

25

accounts?

Α.

- 1 outside guy has an inside person, and they were 2 going to handle it. So if a customer wants to get ahold of 3 0. an outside guy and he's sitting down meeting with 4 5 another customer, will the call get forwarded to 6 the inside sales --7 No, not forwarded. But most of the Α. customers knew who their inside contact was. 8 9 So if they couldn't get ahold of the Q. 10 outside guy and they need something quickly, they could go to the inside guy? 11 12 Α. Correct. 13 Did you have any conversations with Walt Rodgers about Mr. Lankford's need to take a 14 15 leave of absence prior to Mr. Lankford actually 16 going into rehab? 17 Α. No. (WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 7
- 18
- 19 was marked for identification.)
- 20 BY MR. MANSELL:
- 21 All right. I'm handing you what's been 0. marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 7. Have you seen 22 this e-mail thread before? 23
- 24 Α. No.
- 25 Q. All right. Is the bottom e-mail, and

e-mails go in reverse chronological order how they print out. The bottom of the e-mail here is from Bob Johnson to yourself and Dan Oehler dated February 3rd, 2014.

Do you see that?

- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Yes?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And do you have any reason to doubt that you didn't get that e-mail?
- A. No. I get 200-and-some a day so there's no way I'm going to remember e-mails.
 - Q. Sure. And so, the top e-mail is a response from you back to Bob Johnson and Dan Oehler shortly after the first e-mail; is that accurate?
 - A. Uh-huh, yes.
 - Q. And who is Bob Johnson?
 - A. He is a national sales manager.
 - Q. And at the time in February 2014 is that the position he held?
 - A. Yes. And at one time, I do not know the dates, he was, he acted as our sales manager when we did not have one for Cincinnati. He's over the entire RelaDyne corporation.

1 And you're telling Bob Johnson and Dan Ο. 2 Oehler that Mr. Lankford has told some he is out on medical leave? 3 That's what it states, correct. 4 5 0. Do you remember having a conversation 6 with Dan Oehler on February 3rd about medical leave 7 related to Paul? No. 8 Α. (WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 8 9 10 was marked for identification.) BY MR. MANSELL: 11 12 0. I'm handing you what's been marked as 13 Plaintiff's Exhibit 8. What did we call the first 14 one? 15 Α. Seven. 16 Q. All right. Have you had a chance to review this document? 17 Almost. 18 Α. 19 Okay. Let me know when you're ready. Q. 20 (Witness reviews document.) Okay. Α. 21 All right. The bottom, the first 0. 22 e-mail, which is on the bottom of the page on 23 Plaintiff's Exhibit 7, and then the top e-mail is 24 another response from you but now a little over a

day later on February 4th, 2014.

Do you see that?

A. Yes.

- Q. All right. And you say, FYI, Paul L. checked himself into rehab last Thursday in Florida for 35 days due to drinking. Do you know what prompted you to send this e-mail a day later?
 - A. What prompted me?
- Q. Yes. You originally responded that
 Paul has been telling some people he's out on
 medical leave, and then a day later you go into
 some detail for Dan and you actually take off
 Mr. Johnson and add Doug Oehler on it. I just want
 to know if you recall any specific reason as to
 why --
 - A. Just informing them.
- Q. Okay. And why are you informing them?
 Who are Dan and Doug Oehler?
 - A. Doug is my direct boss. He's regional VP, and Dan is VP of sales.
 - Q. Was Doug your direct boss at the time?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And was Dan Oehler also in your chain of command?
- A. My chain of command, he's a VP so he is in the chain of command when it comes to sales.

1 (WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 9 2 was marked for identification.) BY MR. MANSELL: 3 All right. I'm handing you what's been 4 Ο. marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 9. Tell me when 5 6 you're ready. 7 Α. Okay. And you would agree that Plaintiff's 8 Exhibit 9 has the same two e-mails at the bottom as 9 10 Exhibit 8, but now has a response from Dan Oehler at the top, approximately, five minutes after you 11 12 sent your e-mail? 13 Α. Correct. And he copies Walt Rodgers on it, as 14 Q. 15 Do you see that? well. 16 Α. Correct. 17 0. Who is Walt Rodgers at this time? 18 VP of HR. Α. 19 All right. And Dan Oehler says, Tony, Q. 20 you did not tell me. I found out yesterday from 21 Bob Johnson. I'm in Houston, and we will need to 22 discuss this. We have too many signs to ignore and 23 not proactively address. 24 Do you recall having a discussion 25 with Mr. Oehler shortly after this e-mail?

1	A. No.
2	Q. Okay. Is it possible that you had a
3	conversation and you just don't remember?
4	MR. WINTERS: Objection. I've
5	asked him not to speculate on possibilities. He
6	can tell you what he remembers.
7	MR. MANSELL: Okay.
8	BY MR. MANSELL:
9	Q. You can answer that question. Are you
10	telling me you do not remember or are you saying
11	that conversation did not occur?
12	A. I do not remember.
13	Q. What was your understanding of
14	Mr. Oehler's last sentence, we have too many signs
15	to ignore and not proactively address? What was
16	your understanding of what that meant?
17	A. It did not mean anything to me. I just
18	read it and went on.
19	Q. I'm handing you what's been previously
20	marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 3. It's the same
21	e-mail chain we've been discussing, but now you
22	have forwarded the e-mail chain to David Luke and
23	Tim Mastropaolo about six minutes later.
24	Do you see that?

A. Yes.

1 0. And do you recall why you would forward 2 this e-mail chain to David Luke? 3 Α. Yes. Because he was in charge of the investigation with Paul. 4 What investigation with Paul? 5 0. 6 When we first found out there was a 7 problem with missing product. And why would you send this to Tim 8 9 Mastropaolo? 10 He is my operations manager who also gets a lot of calls from customers. 11 He's part of 12 the management team so I forwarded it to him to let 13 him know what was going on. What in this e-mail chain did you feel 14 0. 15 was necessary information for David Luke to have? All of it. 16 17 Okay. So the fact that Paul checked 18 himself into rehab last Thursday in Florida for 35 19 days due to drinking was information you wanted 20 David Luke to have? 21 If it was in the e-mail, I wanted him 22 to have it. 23 Can you explain to me how that's 24 relevant to any investigation?

You would have to ask him.

- 1 0. Oh, did he ask you to give him any 2 information about Paul Lankford? 3 Α. No. He was conducting an investigation so I thought it was best he knew of any e-mails or 4 5 any information. What do you recall, or how do you 6 7 recall first being notified that there was an issue regarding Paul Lankford that warranted an 8 investigation? 9 10 To the best of my knowledge, David Luke and Tim Mastropaolo approached me that there was 11 12 some issues. Didn't go into it at great detail, 13 but it was given the okay for David Luke to pursue the investigation by, I don't know. 14 I didn't 15 approve it per se, but between me, Tim, and David, 16 we said we had to pursue the investigation. 17 (WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 10 was marked for identification.) 18 BY MR. MANSELL: 19 20 Q. I'm handing you what's been Okay. 21 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 10. All right. Have 22 you seen this or do you agree that this is an 23 e-mail chain that you are either copied on or
 - A. Correct.

sending?

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1 0. And the second page is titled, 2 investigation into misappropriation of product? 3 Α. Correct. I want to turn to that second page. 4 Ο. Uh-huh. 5 Α. 6 I want you to drop down to about the 7 middle of the page where the paragraph, it says, upon. Do you see that? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 0. Do you recall Bruce Gee making a complaint, or did Bruce Gee make a complaint to 11 12 you? 13 Α. He never approached me. It was between, I don't know if he approached David Luke 14 15 or Tim or both. I have no idea who he approached 16 first. 17 0. When did you first become aware that 18 Bruce Gee had approached anyone? 19 When Tim and David Luke told me the Α. 20 first about it. 21 The second, the next paragraph down, it 0. 22 states that Tim contacted David Luke to look into 23 the matter on January 14th, 2014. Do you believe 24 that's when you found out is, approximately, 25 mid-January?

1	A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.
2	Q. Did you have any input at that time?
3	A. No.
4	Q. Now, were you aware of a promotion that
5	Mr. Lankford had with the Covington Auto Body?
6	A. What I was aware of, Paul came to me
7	and wanted to do a donation, and that's all I
8	recall of that and the auto body.
9	Q. Did you approve it?
10	A. Correct.
11	Q. Do you recall when that, approximately,
12	was?
13	A. No, I do not.
14	Q. All right. And so, I wanted you to go
15	back to the first page now. It's an e-mail, the
16	bottom e-mail is from David Luke to yourself and
17	Tim Mastropaolo dated January 7, 2014, and it
18	states, here is a written report on the allegations
19	against Paul Lankford.
20	Do you see that?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Is this the first time the report was
23	sent to you January 27, 2014?
24	A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.
25	Q. Okay. And what did you do with the
l l	

report when you got it?

- A. I read it and then I forwarded it to Ann, who was also helping in HR and payroll, and she's also our controller. Tim was responsible at that time for doing outside sales commission and was in charge of doing the entire payroll for our staff. And she does accounting and then she had, she was responsible, she had the personnel files, as well, access to the personnel files along with Chris.
- Q. So you don't send it right away, you receive it on a Monday and you don't send it to Ann Boeckermann until Tuesday of the following week.

 Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Why did you wait so long? Any reason you can recall?
- A. I could have been out of town. I could have been with, I have no idea where I was or why I waited.
 - Q. All right. And why would Ann
 Boeckermann, why would she need this document?
 - A. She's part of the management team and HR so I felt she needed to be in the loop.
 - Q. All right. Did you forward this

- particular document to anybody else?

 A. To the best of my knowledge, no.

 Q. After you received this e-mail with the report, the one-page report from David Luke on January 27th, did you have any conversations between January 27th and February 4th with Mr. Luke or Mr. Mastropaolo related to the report?
 - A. I do not remember.
 - Q. Was it your understanding that Mrs.

 Boeckermann would, well, what was your

 understanding what Ms. Boeckermann would do with

 the report?
 - A. I had no plans of doing anything other than just to inform her of what was going on.
 - Q. Do you believe that you were aware of the allegations against Mr. Lankford prior to him going on leave?
 - A. No. I did not know anything about the allegations.
 - Q. If you look on the second page of Exhibit 10, that third paragraph up from the bottom, it starts with, upon hearing this allegation --
 - A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- the last sentence says, once Tim had

1 this information, he contacted me to look into this 2 matter on January 14th, 2014. Do you see that? 3 Α. Yes. And Mr. Lankford didn't call you until 4 Ο. 5 the end of January to go on medical leave, correct? Α. Correct. 6 7 So you believe that you weren't 0. informed of the allegations prior to looking at 8 that January 14th date and knowing that Mr. 9 10 Lankford didn't go on leave until the end of the month? Do you believe you didn't know of the 11 12 allegations prior to Mr. Lankford going on leave? 13 Α. With the dates, I cannot recall. 14 0. But you didn't have a conversation with 15 Mr. Lankford about the allegations prior to him 16 going on leave, did you? 17 Α. No. Do you think it was appropriate to have 18 19 a conversation with Mr. Lankford to determine what 20 his side of the story was? 21 MR. WINTERS: Are you asking him 22 if he should have had a conversation with him? 23 MR. MANSELL: Yeah. 24 MR. WINTERS: Well, no, because I 25 think he's told you he wasn't sure when he learned

1	about it, and then he also told you he didn't	
2	MR. MANSELL: Gary, no more	
3	speaking objections. You're speaking on the	
4	record. If you have an objection	
5	MR. WINTERS: I am making my	
6	objection.	
7	MR. MANSELL: Then say objection.	
8	If you keep speaking, we're going to stop the	
9	deposition.	
10	MR. WINTERS: Whatever you want,	
11	but I have made my objection. He may answer your	
12	question. I haven't	
13	MR. MANSELL: Will you repeat the	
14	question?	
15	(WHEREUPON, the reporter read back	
16	the requested portion of testimony.)	
17	THE WITNESS: To the best of my	
18	knowledge with not having the dates when he called,	
19	it did not even enter my mind. So, like I said, I	
20	don't know exactly when him and David Luke informed	
21	me so I cannot answer that question.	
22	BY MR. MANSELL:	
23	Q. Were you part of the investigation?	
24	A. No.	
25	Q. Were you part of the decision process	

of terminating Mr. Lankford?

- A. No. I did not fight it when I got the word from Walt saying per the ethical violation on the handbook. Then I took it from there.
- Q. So whether or not the decision was made before or after you talked with Mr. Lankford, that wasn't a concern of yours? You weren't a part of the investigation?
- A. I was not part, correct, but I do remember when I informed Mr. Luke that he was going into rehab, he said he was conducting an investigation and we couldn't do anything until he came back.
- Q. I want you to look back on Exhibit 9, the e-mail you sent to Dan and Doug Oehler informing them of Mr. Lankford's rehab and leave of absence, among other things, is dated February 4th, 2014 at 8:57 a.m.

Do you see that?

- A. Correct.
- Q. All right. And then Mr. Oehler responds shortly after that and then after having, and then I want to jump back to Exhibit 10. Now, after having the report for over a week, you now, for the first time, forward the report to Ann

1 Boeckermann, who was acting as human resources. 2 Is there any reason that you 3 waited a week-and-a-day, but only less than an hour-and-a-half after you had some e-mails back and 4 forth about Mr. Lankford's rehab, is there any 5 6 connection there? 7 MR. WINTERS: Objection, I think You may answer if you understand. 8 it's confusing. THE WITNESS: Well, let's see, I 9 10 have five locations, over 100 associates, I'm in 11 and out of the office. So I have no idea. 12 be behind my desk sometimes and can reply, 13 sometimes I have to wait a day. It could be two 14 days so I do not recall, but there is a, are you 15 asking was there a connection? BY MR. MANSELL: 16 17 Did somebody tell you to forward this report to Ann Boeckermann? 18 19 Α. No. 20 Did you have a conversation with Dan Q. 21 Oehler or Doug Oehler about the report that's 22 attached to Exhibit 10? 23 To the best of my knowledge, I never 24 talked to Dan or Doug about the investigation. 25 Q. I'm handing you what's been previously

marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 5. It's three pages.

There's an e-mail chain on the first page, and then

two pages of an attachment.

A. Okay.

- Q. All right. I want you to first look at the second and third pages of Exhibit 5. The second page appears to be the initial report you received back in January, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And then the second page is additional notes on the report after a February 4, 2014 visit by David Luke to Covington Auto Body. Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Were you aware that Mr. Luke was going to Covington Auto Body on February 4th?
- A. He did not tell me to the best of my knowledge beforehand, but I was informed, I believe, after the fact, but I do not remember if it was before or after.
- Q. All right. And if you look at the bottom of Page 1, there's an e-mail from David Luke to yourself and Tim Mastropaolo dated February 5th, 2014 at 11:11 a.m.

Do you see that?

1 Α. Yes. 2 And you forwarded that e-mail and the Q. two-page report to Dan Oehler and Doug Oehler on 3 4 February 5th, 2014 at 11:17 a.m., approximately, six minutes later. Do you see that? 5 6 Α. Correct. 7 All right. Why did you forward this 0. report to Dan Oehler? 8 To inform them of where we were on the 9 10 investigation. But prior to this, you hadn't talked 11 Ο. 12 with him at all about the investigation? 13 Α. To the best of my knowledge, no. And you hadn't forwarded him any 14 Q. 15 e-mails --16 Α. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 17 Is there a reason why you're sending it 18 to Dan Oehler and copying it to Doug since Doug is 19 your direct supervisor? I just didn't know if 20 there was any reason why Dan is the recipient and 21 Dan is copied? 22 No idea why I did that, no. As long as 23 they both got it, I was not concerned with --All right. Now, the top e-mail is an 24 Q.

e-mail from Dan Oehler to Walt Rodgers and you're

- copied on it. Do you see that?
- A. Correct.
 - Q. Dated February 5th, 2014 at 10:57 p.m.?
- A. Yes.

Q. It says, Walt, Tony may have sent this to you also, but I want to make sure that you have, as well. I discussed with Tony today my thoughts, but we need to consult with you regarding his rehab condition.

Do you see that?

- A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And the first part of the second sentence, I discussed with Tony today my thoughts, do you recall having a conversation with Dan Oehler on February 5th, 2014?
 - A. No, I do not.
- Q. Do you remember any thoughts on this subject that Mr. Oehler shared with you?
 - A. No, I do not.
- Q. Okay. And the second part of sentence, we need to consult with you regarding his rehab condition, do you remember consulting with Walt Rodgers regarding Mr. Lankford's rehab condition?
- A. No.
- Q. Did Dan Oehler give the go-ahead to

fire Mr. Lankford?

- A. To the best of my knowledge, I received the authority from Walt Rodgers, nothing from Dan Oehler.
- Q. Would Dan Oehler, in your experience, have the authority to terminate one of your sales reps?
- A. With him being the vice-president, I would believe, whatever he told me to do, I would do.

(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 11

was marked for identification.)

BY MR. MANSELL:

- Q. I'm going to hand you what's been marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 11. Let me know when you've had a chance to review that.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. And so, the bottom two e-mails on the page is what we've seen previously that David Luke forwarded you and then you forwarded it on to Dan and Doug Oehler, correct?
- A. And Doug Oehler in this e-mail chain responds to you, and Dan Oehler and says, the last two reports from Paul are terrible and really questions many things going on. I would like to

1 make a change in this territory. Reps need to be 2 reliable and trusted. He has proven different in 3 many cases. Did I read that correctly? 4 MR. WINTERS: You did not. 5 Ιt 6 says, I would like to make a change, and he 7 wrote I would plan. BY MR. MANSELL: 8 9 Ο. Let's strike that then. I would plan 10 to make a change, starting on the second sentence, I would plan to make a change in this territory. 11 12 Reps need to be reliable and trusted. He has 13 proven different in many cases. 14 Did I read that correctly? 15 Α. Yes. 16 And it was your understanding that the Q. 17 last two reports Mr. Oehler is referring to are the 18 reports from, on Mr. Lankford going out on medical 19 leave that you explained in your e-mail on February 20 4th and the two-page report attached to the e-mail 21 you forwarded earlier that day? 22 Yeah. You would have to ask Doug that. 23 I have no idea what two reports he's talking about.

You didn't have an understanding on

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0.

your own?

- 1 Α. All I know is the investigation was an 2 ethics violation so I would assume, well, I'm not going to assume, but you would have to ask Doug. 3 Was the report, did the report have 4 Ο. anything to do with Mr. Lankford's reliability, the 5 6 report attached to this document, the two-page 7 report from David Luke? Α. I don't recall. 8 Well, it had to do with 9 Q. 10 misappropriation of product, correct? 11 Α. Yeah. 12 0. And so, you could review the report, if 13 you would like, but I would just like to know if you think there's anything in that report that 14 15 deals with reliability? 16 Oh, yes. If you can't trust, if 17 someone's misappropriating funds, to me, that's, 18 you can't rely on them. 19 Okay. And did you respond to Doug 20 Oehler's e-mail and state, I agree we need to be 21 careful how we handle due to his rehab and 22 lawsuits, but I think we have enough to dismiss. 23 Did I read that correctly? 24 Α. Correct.
 - Q. What did you mean by we need to be

1 careful how we handle due to his rehab and 2 lawsuits? Because when I informed David Luke of 3 4 him going into rehab, that's when he said to hold 5 off. We cannot do anything until he gets back and 6 the investigation is done. 7 Okay. And what is lawsuits, rehab and Q. lawsuits? 8 9 When I, as I stated, when I approached Α. 10 David Luke, he said we can't do anything due to lawsuits until he gets back. 11 12 And then you finished the sentence, but 13 I think we have enough to dismiss. What did you 14 mean by that? 15 When someone steals, that's enough to 16 dismiss. 17 So based on the contents of the report, you thought, you think we have enough to dismiss? 18 19 Yes. I thought we had enough to 20 dismiss due to the investigation. 21 But you hadn't talked with Mr. Lankford 0. 22 at that point yet, correct? 23 Α. No.

So was a final decision made at that

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time? Do you know?

1 Α. To the best of my knowledge, the final 2 decision was made when I received the e-mail from 3 Walt Rodgers. At the bottom of the page on Exhibit 4 11, your e-mail after you got the David Luke report 5 6 says, David Luke to send more information. 7 see that? Α. Yes. 8 Okay. Do you remember what information 9 Q. 10 Mr. Luke was going to send? 11 To the best of my knowledge, further 12 information on the investigation. 13 Q. Had you seen any documentation as of February 5th, 2014, any additional information at 14 15 that point? 16 All the documentation I received was 17 through e-mail. (WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 12 18 19 was marked for identification.) 20 BY MR. MANSELL: 21 I'm going to hand you what's been 0. 22 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 12. Let me know when 23 you have had a chance to review Plaintiff's Exhibit 24 12. 25 Α. Okay.

1	Q. All right. The first page is an e-mail
2	from David Luke to Rodgers, Doug and Dan Oehler,
3	correct?
4	A. Correct.
5	Q. And the attachments are, well, have you
6	seen these attachments before?
7	A. This e-mail I have not seen, but he did
8	show me at one time, and I don't remember when or
9	how, I've seen this before.
10	Q. Who's shown you it?
11	A. David Luke did.
12	Q. And you're referring to the second
13	page?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. Okay. And what about the third page?
16	A. I do not remember seeing those.
17	Q. What about the fourth page?
18	A. At one time, I do remember seeing that,
19	yes.
20	MR. MANSELL: Let's take a quick
21	break. I want to make a copy of an exhibit.
22	(WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)
23	(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 13
24	was marked for identification.)
25	BY MR. MANSELL:

1 Mr. Downs, we are back on the record, 0. 2 and I've handed you what's been marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 13. Let me know when you've 3 had a chance to review that. 4 5 (Witness reviews document.) 6 You talked about receiving an e-mail 7 from Walt Rodgers citing a portion of the employee handbook, right? 8 9 Correct. Α. 10 0. And I want to direct you to the middle 11 of the first page here. There's an e-mail from 12 Walt Rodgers to yourself and David Luke copied on 13 it. Do you see that? 14 Α. Yes. 15 And is this the e-mail that you've been 16 referring to? 17 Α. Yes. So you know, at least at this point, 18 19 the decision in your mind was final? 20 Α. Yes. 21 And then if, you don't know if maybe 0. 22 the decision had been made and finalized prior to 23 this; is that accurate? 24 Α. That is accurate.

And it says, termination strategy.

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Q.

1 you see that? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. Did you talk termination strategy with Mr. Rodgers? 4 I do not recall a termination strategy, 5 6 no. 7 Do you recall any further participation 0. on your end regarding the misappropriation issue 8 9 from the time you got this e-mail on February 6th 10 until the time you met with Mr. Lankford? 11 Do I recall any further discussions on 12 the investigation or termination? 13 Q. Investigation. 14 Α. No. 15 And so, this is on February 6th. 0. 16 forwarded on February 7th, Dan Oehler confirms 17 later that day. Do you see that? 18 Α. Yes. 19 And then from that point until the time Q. 20 you met, physically met with Mr. Lankford, there 21 was no other involvement on your end? 22 Α. No. 23 All right. Tell me what you did to Q. 24 prepare for the termination meeting? Did you do 25 anything, review anything at that point?

1	A. I do not recall what I reviewed. David
2	Luke and myself met in the conference room before
3	Paul got there. We had all the paperwork
4	necessary, and I don't remember if I read through
5	the investigation again, but it was not much
6	preparation. It's not like we sat down and had a
7	strategy.
8	MR. MANSELL: Can we go off the
9	record real quick?
10	(WHEREUPON, discussion off the
11	record was had.)
12	BY MR. MANSELL:
13	Q. You said that you and Mr. Luke met and
14	prepared and you had all the appropriate paperwork?
15	A. Yes, there was really no strategy. It
16	was black and white. He stole from the company.
17	It was pretty easy.
18	Q. And did you fill out the exit interview
19	paperwork?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. And did you do that before the meeting,
22	during the meeting, after the meeting?
23	A. I'm not sure what parts were filled out
24	when. I do not recall.
25	Q. How long did the meeting last for?

1 Α. To the best of my knowledge, 45 2 minutes. Who did most of the talking? Was it 3 Q. you or Mr. Luke or a combination? 4 Mr. Luke did most of the talking. 5 Anything related to the investigation, 6 7 would you be getting that information from Mr. Luke 8 anyway? Yes. He went through the investigation 9 Α. with Mr. Lankford. 10 11 Are you aware of any other sales reps Ο. 12 that have either worked for you or you have 13 knowledge of with RelaDyne that have been terminated for using samples for personal use or 14 15 something similar to what Mr. Lankford did in this situation? 16 17 Α. Since I've been with RelaDyne, no. 18 Prior to that, I don't have any idea. 19 And when you started with RelaDyne was Q. 20 when? 21 Around February, it's been over two Α. 22 It'll be three years February 1st, I 23 believe, of 2016. 24 0. The e-mail on Exhibit 13 where Dan 25 Oehler is confirming to move forward with the

termination, is that something that Dan Oehler
would have to authorize in the situation? What did
you understand him saying, confirmed, to mean?
A. Confirmed as far as Walt's response.
Q. He's agreeing?
A. Right. Correct. Is my interpretation.
You would have to ask Dan.
Q. Did anyone ever call you after Mr.
Lankford left RelaDyne for any reference, job
reference about Mr. Lankford?
A. No job references.
Q. All right. Are there any conversations
or meetings that you had related to Mr. Lankford's
rehab or leave of absence, medical leave of absence
that we haven't discussed here today?
A. To the best of my knowledge, no.
Q. Okay. Is there any conversations or
meetings that you had with anybody from RelaDyne
about Mr. Lankford's termination on
misappropriation of product that we haven't
discussed here today?
A. To the best of my knowledge, no.
(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit 14
was marked for identification.)
BY MR. MANSELL:

1 0. I'm going to hand you what's been 2 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 14. Let me know when you've had a chance to look over this e-mail. 3 Α. (Witness reviews document.) I have. 4 5 0. And I want to direct you to the middle 6 of the page. Ann Boeckermann asks you on February 7 17th, how did it go? Do you see that? Α. Yes. 8 I'm assuming she's referring to the 9 Q. 10 termination meeting? 11 I would assume, but I do not know. 12 Q. Is that what you assumed when you 13 responded above? 14 Α. Yes. 15 And you say, not bad. Poor thing 16 looked like he was high on something. Feel sorry for him. Do you see that? 17 18 Α. Yes. 19 Why do you think Mr. Lankford looked 20 high? What was your perception? 21 I mean, his eyes did not look right, Α. 22 his actions. I was very scared for him. 23 that on his exit interview, and I was, almost

wanted to call the cops. I was very worried as far

as liability of him leaving and maybe getting into

24

25

1 an accident. It was, I was scared for him. 2 Q. What do you mean by high? Like, we did not, I did not smell 3 Α. 4 alcohol, but he looked like he was high. I mean, he was fidgety, just like that's, high on 5 6 something, on a pill. I don't know. It could have 7 been, I don't think it was alcohol, but it was, something was, in my opinion, he did not seem 100 8 percent there. 9 10 Ο. And is that the first time you ever saw Mr. Lankford like that? 11 12 Α. Yes. And you were aware that Mr. Lankford 13 Q. 14 had a drinking problem prior to him going to 15 Florida; is that right? 16 I had heard, yes, some. Tim had told 17 me, when I had told Tim that he was in rehab that, 18 because Tim was the GM before me, that he had gone 19 in before. 20 Q. While he was an employee of Oil 21 Distributing or sometime before you got there? 22 Α. Correct. 23 And Tim had knowledge of that and told Q. 24 you?

25

Α.

Correct.

1	Q. All right. Any other conversations
2	about Mr. Lankford's rehab either the time in 2014
3	or his previous time?
4	A. No.
5	Q. Did you have any issue or concern that
6	Mr. Lankford did not finish his rehab program?
7	A. Did I have any concerns? To me, that
8	didn't even enter my mind because once the
9	investigation was done, it really did not matter.
10	Q. And you weren't his treating physician
11	to know whether or not he was able to return to
12	work or what his condition was, right?
13	A. I saw no paperwork.
14	MR. MANSELL: All right. I don't
15	have anything further.
16	MR. WINTERS: I have nothing. We
17	will have signature if it's ordered.
18	(WHEREUPON, the deposition
19	concluded at 12:59 p.m.)
20	
21	* * * *
22	
23	
24	CHARLES ANTHONY DOWNS
25	

CERTIFICATE

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4

1

STATE OF OHIO

SS.

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

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I, Lainey Fergueson, the undersigned, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that before the giving of aforesaid deposition said CHARLES ANTHONY DOWNS, was by me first duly sworn to state the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the foregoing is the deposition given at said time and place by said CHARLES ANTHONY DOWNS; that said deposition was taken in stenotypy by the court reporter and transcribed into typewriting under her supervision; that said transcribed deposition was submitted to the witness for his examination; the court reporter was neither a relative of nor attorney for any of the parties to this case nor relative of nor employee for any of the counsel; neither the court reporter nor the affiliated court reporting firm has a financial interest under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal of office this 31st day of August, 2015.

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20

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23

24

25

LAINEY FERGUESON, CSR Notary Public, State of Ohio My Commission Expires 12-24-18

1	PLEASE USE THIS ERRATA SHEET TO MAKE ANY AND ALL CORRECTIONS, BY LISTING THE PAGE NUMBER,
2	LINE NUMBER AND THEN A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ERROR. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ANY MARKS OR CORRECTIONS
3	ON THE TRANSCRIPT. IF NEEDED USE THE BACK OF THIS SHEET. UPON COMPLETION PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THIS
4	SHEET AT THE BOTTOM. THANK YOU.
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	SIGNATURE:DATE:
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57 1 I have no idea what he thought. That has 2 nothing to do with the termination and that's the only 3 thing I was concerned about. 4 Q. Sure. But this is the e-mail that you received 5 giving you directive to terminate Mr. Lankford, correct? 6 A. Yeah, at the very top it states that. 7 This e-mail chain? Q. 8 A. The e-mail chain, yes. 9 Q. Okay. 10 MR. FRIEDMANN: Okay. I have no further 11 questions. 12 MR. BERNAT: We'll take signature. 13 orders, e-mail it to me and I'll get him to sign. 14 (Deposition concluded at 12:01 p.m.) 15 16 17 18 (LJ) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

ERRATA SHEET

To Lori Jay, I have read the entire transcript of my deposition taken on March 25, 2015, and have made the following corrections. I have signed my name to the signature page and authorize you to attach the following changes to the original transcript.

PAGE	LINE	CORRECTION
		NONE.
		•
	· w	
	 	

Charlene Nicholas & Associates, LLC 5136 Phillipsburg-Union Road, Englewood OH 45322 Phone: (937) 836-7878 Fax: (937) 836-1718

Charles Anthony Downs

Case: 1:14-cv-00682-KLL Doc #: 32 Filed: 09/16/15 Page: 44 of 56 PAGEID #: 1100

Gregory Mansell

From:

Tony Downs

Sent:

Monday, February 03, 2014 8:25 AM

To: Subject: Bob Johnson; Dan Oehler RE: Paul Lankford / TireMan

He has told some he is out on medical leave - Thanks - TD

From: Bob Johnson

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 8:13 AM

To: Dan Oehler; Tony Downs Subject: Paul Lankford / TireMan

Guys:

With Paul being out, I am happy to coordinate with Brian @ UCI for Friday's meeting. Wondering what I should communicate as to why Paul is out?

Bob Johnson

Automotive Channel Manager 317-696-3009



Connect with RelaDyne:











Case: 1:14-cv-00682-KLL Doc #: 32 Filed: 09/16/15 Page: 45 of 56 PAGEID #: 1101

Gregory Mansell

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 8:57 AM

To: Dan Oehler; Douglas Oehler Subject: FW: Paul Lankford / Tire Man

FYI – Paul L checked himself into rehab last Thursday in Florida for 35 days due to drinking – He told me he had notified the "Oehler's" so I take it he had talked to you two – He claims he told some of his customers he would be on medical leave and gave them contact names and numbers - - Donna is calling from the inside and I have Phil Marino handling his larger volume accounts – I did talk to Bob Kemper from Grismer Tire and he has been very unhappy with Paul for not calling on his Manager's at the stores (Phil to visit all stores) and wants Paul off his account – We will let him cool down and I will visit with Bob and get his account settled – Let me know if you have any other suggestions – Walt R has been notified as well - Thanks - TD

From: Bob Johnson

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 8:13 AM

To: Dan Oehler; Tony Downs **Subject:** Paul Lankford / TireMan

Guys:

With Paul being out, I am happy to coordinate with Brian @ UCI for Friday's meeting. Wondering what I should communicate as to why Paul is out?

Bob Johnson

Automotive Channel Manager 317-696-3009



Connect with RelaDyne:











From:

Dan Oehler

Sent:

Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:02 AM

To:

Tony Downs; Douglas Oehler

Cc:

Walt Rodgers

Subject:

RE: Paul Lankford / Tire Man

Tony—He did NOT tell me. I found out yesterday from Bob Johnson. I'm in Houston and we will need to discuss this. We have too many signs to ignore and not proactively address.

Dan Oehler VP of Sales and Marketing RelaDyne, LLC www.RelaDyne.com

9395 Kenwood Rd. Ste #104 Blue Ash, OH 45242

(o) 513.247.1443 (m) 513.476.4957

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 8:57 AM

To: Dan Oehler; Douglas Oehler

Subject: FW: Paul Lankford / Tire Man

FYI – Paul L checked himself into rehab last Thursday in Florida for 35 days due to drinking – He told me he had notified the "Oehler's" so I take it he had talked to you two – He claims he told some of his customers he would be on medical leave and gave them contact names and numbers - - Donna is calling from the inside and I have Phil Marino handling his larger volume accounts – I did talk to Bob Kemper from Grismer Tire and he has been very unhappy with Paul for not calling on his Manager's at the stores (Phil to visit all stores) and wants Paul off his account – We will let him cool down and I will visit with Bob and get his account settled – Let me know if you have any other suggestions – Walt R has been notified as well - Thanks - TD

From: Bob Johnson

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 8:13 AM

To: Dan Oehler; Tony Downs **Subject:** Paul Lankford / TireMan

Guys:

With Paul being out, I am happy to coordinate with Brian @ UCI for Friday's meeting. Wondering what I should communicate as to why Paul is out?

Bob Johnson Automotive Channel Manager 317-696-3009





From:

Tony Downs

Sent:

Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:23 AM

To:

Ann Boeckermann

Subject: Attachments: FW: Investigation into misappropriation of product Investigation into misappropriation of product.docx

Tony Downs

General Manager

RelaDyne - Reliability in Motion

5228 River Road — Cincinnati, OH. 45233-1643 513-467-3148 Direct | 513-467-3100 Main 859-948-4992 Mobile |513-467-3486 Fax tony.downs@reladyne.com

www.reladyne.com



From: David Luke

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:16 PM

To: Tim Mastropaolo; Tony Downs

Subject: Investigation into misappropriation of product

Here is a written report on the allegation(s) against Paul Lankford.-Dave



Investigation into misappropriation of product

There has been an allegation against Paul Langford regarding misappropriation of product with the intent to defraud a customer.

According to the complainant lodged by the Manager (Dan) of Covington Auto Body located at 2111 Mote Dr. Covington, Ohio 45318, Paul Lankford approached him regarding a chartable event involving a local Charity. The arrangement was to be, Oil Distributing would donate oil and filters for six (6) oil changes, which were to be raffled off through this charity. Covington Auto body was to use the donated oil and filter and preform the oil changes in hopes of attracting new customers.

The first person to have their oil changed was Paul's mother, who stated to Dan the manager that Paul gave her the oil changes for Christmas as a gift.

The second customer who came into the shop for an oil change was Paul's sister-in-law.

Being suspicious of what might be going on, Dan contacted the charity and talked to someone he knew and asked if Paul Lankford, Oil Distributing Company or Reladyne was involved in type of donations? After checking the records, no evidence could be found relating to any donations made by Paul, ODC, or Reladyne.

Upon making his delivery of several cases of oil and one case of filters to Covington Auto Body our driver Bruce Gee asked the Manager Dan, how does he rate getting products for free? Dan started to explain how the deal was supposed to work. Dan stated Paul told him if Covington Auto body would do the changes as part of their donation and it would generate new business for him. Dan feels like he is losing money in labor and in topping off all the fluids during an oil change and he was duped into doing these oil changes

Upon hearing this allegation Bruce contacted his supervisor Mark Mielnicki who notified Tim Mastropaolo the Director of Operations. Once Tim had this information he contacted me to look into this matter on January 14, 2014.

Bruce Gee contacted me to inform me that the third oil change had occurred ant Covington Auto Body, the customer stated he was a buddy of Paul's and Paul gave to him as a Christmas gift.

The plan is to interview Dan of Covington Auto Body and to obtain the name of the charity and the contact person to review and obtain documentation on the charity.

From:

Douglas Oehler

Sent:

Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:27 AM

To: Subject: Tony Downs; Dan Oehler RE: Paul Lankford report

This is separate issue and warrants loss of job, in my mind we keep it to just this topic if we choose to replace

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:26 AM

To: Douglas Oehler; Dan Oehler **Subject:** RE: Paul Lankford report

I agree – We need to be careful how we handle due to his Rehab and lawsuits but I think we have enough to dismiss –

Thanks - TD

From: Douglas Oehler

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:22 AM

To: Tony Downs; Dan Oehler **Subject:** RE: Paul Lankford report

The last two reports from Paul are terrible and really questions many things going on. I would plan to make a change in this territory. Reps need to be reliable and trusted, he has proven different in many cases.

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:17 AM

To: Dan Oehler Cc: Douglas Oehler

Subject: FW: Paul Lankford report

FYI - Dave Luke to send more information - Thanks - TD

From: David Luke

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:11 AM

To: Tim Mastropaolo; Tony Downs **Subject:** Paul Lankford report

Here is the report on Paul I combined both reports page 1 and page 2, I will scan all documents I have so we can send it

to Dan and Walt-Dave



From: David Luke

Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Walt Rodgers; Dan Oehler; Douglas Oehler

Subject: Paul lankford

Attachments: Paul Lankford report.docx; Paul Lankford.pdf

Here is the supporting documents along with the report you already should have.

Thank you

David Luke

Director of Loss Prevention Safety and Compliance Reladyne LLC

(O): 513-467-3115 (C): 513-378-9715 david.luke@reladyne.com

"Safety is non - negotiable it is a condition of employment"





of Express fire and auto centers and Reladyne. Rhand Lankful

oil Change to center and auto center and Reladyne

Those are the Cards that were used to redoom cel Changes issued key land Landford. placed on the back of business Cards!

derestam

This card is not redeemable for cash, and lost or stolen cards will not be replaced except as required by law. At cards will not be replaced expires 12 months after date of merchants option, card expires 12 months after date of purchase, except where prohibited.

May be used at any Express Tire & Auto Centers locations

22

Authorized Installer

Covington Body Shop & Service Dept. 2111 Mote Drive Covington, Oh. 45318 937-473-3355

Case: 1:14-cv-00682-KLL Doc #: 32 Filed: 09/16/15 Page: 53 of 56 PAGEID #: 1109

TROY EXPRESS TIRE & AUTO CENTER

846 W. MAIN ST. TROY, OH 45373

Phone: (937) 440-6449 Fax: (937) 440-8112

Email:

Web Address: WWW.ETAC1.NET

Invoice

67825

Estimate Ref #: 6,711 Date Printed: 02/04/2014

Printed Time: 10:51 am

Hat/Ref#

Cell:

" IMPECCABLE SERVICE, DRIVEN BY INTEGRITY"

Time Promised:

Lankford, Tish

109 REGENCY CT.

2004 FORD FOCUS LX L4 2.0L 1989CC 122CID FI GAS N P

VIN:1FAFP33P64W156097

097 Mileage in: 85,685 Date Written:

01/03/2014

COVINGTON, OH 45318

License: FMQ6848 Unit #:

Mileage Out: 85,685

Written By: DONN GOFF

Home: (937) 335-9993

Email:

DOM:

Save Old Parts: No

Description Technician Qty List Extended Job Name F/S DURAMAX LOF **FULL SERVICE DURAMAX LUBE** MICHAEL EPLEY OIL AND FILTER TEC Work Requested - F/S DURAMAX LUBE OIL \$10.99 Labor AND FILTER Work Performed - FULL SERVICE LUBE OIL AND FILTER Part **5W30 DURAMAX** DURAMAX SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL GF-5 5.00 \$3.00 \$15.00 \$4.00 Part M195 / VO23 OIL FILTER 1.00 \$4.00 Discount: \$29.99

Payment Date	Type	Method	Amount
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Parts: \$19.00 Labor: \$10.99 Sublet \$0,00 Misc: \$0.00 Discount: \$29.99 Hazmat: \$0.00 Supplies: \$0.00 Tax Total: \$0.00 invoice Total: \$0.00 Less Paid: \$0.00 Balance Due: \$0.00

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TROY EXPRESS

I hereby authorize the above repair work to be done along with the necessary material and hereby grant you and/or your employees permission to operate the car or truck herein described on streets, highways or elsewhere for the purpose of testing and/or inspection. An express mechanic's lien is hereby acknowledged on above car or truck to secure the amount of repairs thereto.

Authorized By	Date	Time

From:

Dan Oehler

Sent:

Friday, February 07, 2014 12:25 PM

To: Subject: Tony Downs; Douglas Oehler RE: Paul Lankford report

Confirmed.

Dan Oehler VP of Sales and Marketing RelaDyne, LLC www.RelaDyne.com

9395 Kenwood Rd. Ste #104 Blue Ash, OH 45242

(o) 513.247.1443 (m) 513.476.4957

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 8:22 AM

To: Dan Oehler; Douglas Oehler Subject: FW: Paul Lankford report

FYI

From: Walt Rodgers

Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:50 AM

To: Tony Downs **Cc:** David Luke

Subject: RE: Paul Lankford report

Tony – We need to talk termination strategy. Per our Disciplinary Action Policy on page 50 of the Associate Handbook, we are in the clear to move on him.

513-247-1440

Thanks!

Walt

Ps Dave Luke - very nice work here. Thank you!

From: Dan Oehler

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:57 PM

To: Walt Rodgers

Cc: Tony Downs; Douglas Oehler Subject: FW: Paul Lankford report



Case: 1:14-cv-00682-KLL Doc #: 32 Filed: 09/16/15 Page: 55 of 56 PAGEID #: 1111

Walt: Tony may have sent this to you also, but I want to make sure that you have as well. I discussed with Tony today my thoughts, but we need to consult with you regarding his rehab condition. I'm happy to interject my opinions when desired. I have great loyalty of course to my past team, and I believe in Paul's capabilities. However, his lapses and ethics have both passed that loyalty.

Dan Oehler VP of Sales and Marketing RelaDyne, LLC www.RelaDyne.com

9395 Kenwood Rd. Ste #104 Blue Ash, OH 45242

(o) 513.247.1443 (m) 513.476.4957

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:17 AM

To: Dan Oehler Cc: Douglas Oehler

Subject: FW: Paul Lankford report

FYI - Dave Luke to send more information - Thanks - TD

From: David Luke

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:11 AM

To: Tim Mastropaolo; Tony Downs **Subject:** Paul Lankford report

Here is the report on Paul I combined both reports page 1 and page 2, I will scan all documents I have so we can send it to Dan and Walt-Dave

From:

Tony Downs

Sent:

Monday, February 17, 2014 12:00 PM

To: Subject: Ann Boeckermann RE: Paul Lankford

Not bad – Poor thing looked like he was "high" on something – Feel sorry for him!!!!

Tony Downs

General Manager

RelaDyne - Reliability in Motion

5228 River Road – Cincinnati, OH. 45233-1643 513-467-3148 Direct | 513-467-3100 Main 859-948-4992 Mobile |513-467-3486 Fax tony.downs@reladyne.com

www.reladyne.com



From: Ann Boeckermann

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 11:55 AM

To: Tony Downs

Subject: RE: Paul Lankford

How did it go?

From: Tony Downs

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 11:50 AM **To:** Chris Chaille; Ann Boeckermann; David Luke

Subject: FW: Paul Lankford

FYI

From: Nick Kessinger

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 11:44 AM

To: Tony Downs

Subject: RE: Paul Lankford

Let me dig through my records. I know we sent those sales guys some netbooks a while ago, but not everyone got one. Let me check my records and get back to you. I am still working on disabling everything and will let you know when it is completed.

Nick Kessinger IT Tech Support Rep – RelaDyne O 513.247.1451 Nick.Kessinger@RelaDyne.com

